missing advocate, a case was registered on 22nd November, 1999 at Subzi Mandi Police Station. All out efforts are being made by the police to trace him but no clue has been found as yet.

Negotiations with DHD

2225. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from North Cachar Hills, Autonomous Council Haflong, Assam in the recent past regarding tackling of terrorist organisation (DHD) through negotiations and to bring them in the social and democratic mainstream; and

(b) if so, what initiatives have been taken so far by Government to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India have made appeals to all the militant groups which include DHD to give up the path of violence and to come forward for talks without conditions. Government are also committed to the speedy economic development of the North Cachar Hills.

Massacre in Lotto Village in Palamu

2226. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent massacre of members of two minority community families in Lotto Village in South Bihar's Palamu district;

(b) if so, whether Government have obtained any factual report of the gruesome incident; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) According to available information, 12 persons were killed at village Lotto, District Palamu, on November 16/17, 1999. The deceased belonged to the family of one Abdul Gafoor Ansari.

A case under sections 147/148/149/302 I.P.C. has been registered at P.S. Chhatarpur in connection with this matter. Two suspects have been arrested. The State Police is making efforts to nab other accused persons.

The State Government has reported that ex gratia grant at the rate of Rs. 20,000/- per deceased has been paid to the nearest kin of the deceased persons.

Government condemns all acts of violence.